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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[14 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Children and Their Rights

All religions have advised people to peace and reconciliation with each other. Because human nature is incompatible with violence and extremism; No one has pleasant feeling in violence conditions and endure these conditions, even for the heroes of history it has been difficult and unpleasant.
In violence conditions, one of the vulnerable segments of society who needs more care to protect against violence and extremism are children who are exposed to greater risks.
Convention on the Rights of the Child is a basis for the determination of the rights of children and protection of them. However, in each of these countries, there are children who experience violence. Effects and reflections of such violence can continue in all stages of life of these children and affect their health, growth and behavior.

According to the Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that states:
1-Member States undertake to in times of armed conflict relates to children, Respect the applicable rules of international humanitarian law and ensure respect for the rules.

2- Member States will take all possible actions to ensure persons who have not attained the age of 15 are not directly participating in hostilities.

3- Member States will avoid the reception of persons who have not attained the age of 15 in their armed forces. At the reception of persons between 15 and 18 years, member States shall endeavor to give priority to those who are older.

4- Member States under obligations under international humanitarian law relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, to take all possible actions to ensure Protection and care of children who are vulnerable due to armed conflict.

It is unfortunate that in the 21st century, millions of children in various forms of violence in the world expose to violence. The most obvious manifestation of violence is war and bloodshed and the most innocent Victims of war, are children. War, has a negative impact on children and also destructs Infrastructure to which children are raised.
According to a UNICEF report, during last year nearly 15 million children have been displaced in the wars of the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, Palestine, Syria and Ukraine and 230 million children around the world live in countries that are at war and violence. The wars in Iraq and Syria after the emergence of terrorist groups; Daesh, led to the involvement of over three million, seven hundred thousand children in Syria and two million seven hundred thousand Iraqi children in violence and extremism.

Nearly 10 thousand children were employed by armed groups in Central Africa and more than 430 children were killed by armed groups that when compared with last year has tripled. In Southern Sudan, 235 million children under age 5 suffer from malnutrition and despite the fact that 750 thousand children were left homeless.

Children in Syria are widely exposed to murder, kidnapping, detention and torture. About three million children for various reasons, including the destruction of schools, flee from war or support their families have been forced to quit school.
According to the UN, 50% to 60% of Syrians who have fled to neighboring countries are deprived of education and schools.
Earlier, the United Nations published a report on the destruction of schools in Syria and the destruction of more than three thousand schools in the country was announced. Many of these children are forced to do hard work to pay for the rest of their family life.
Syrian refugee girls also because of the difficult economic conditions of families in refugee camp are forced to marry with Arab sheiks or men at least 10 years elder.
The Iraq war led to the forced displacement of people and communities affected by conflict and violence, caused that the situation of civilians, especially children, places in critical conditions.
According to available statistics and findings, a large number of children have been killed or injured, or forced to relocate. So now in Iraq, many children live apart from their families.
I like to suggest the following recommendations according to my study and practice of protecting children's rights in armed conflict:

1-Identification of situation through monitoring, reporting and regular assessments This report should include child abuse and molestation to the recruitment of children by armed groups and armies, killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, Denial of humanitarian assistance, sexual and gender-based violence against children, child abduction and actions.
2- Assessment and advice for action against countries and based on reports provided to countries that recruit or use children in armed conflicts.
3- Prohibit all forms of violence against children in all states and countries and evidence based policy enforcement and education programs to prevent violence against children.
4-Encourage and promote non-violent values and awareness rising.
5- Developing and designing the implementation of a systematic effort to gather information and research.

I suggest that governments promote systems of collecting data in order to improve their level of identifying the most vulnerable subgroups.
6-give information to those involved in all levels of policy and planning and led progress towards the goal of preventing violence against children.
7- Countries use national indicators based on internationally agreed standards and ensure data collected and analyzed and published over the time.
8-Insert a national research agenda on violence against children in all work situations to gather knowledge and develop a higher level of programs is necessary.